

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 14, 2004, claims 1-50 were pending. Claims 1-10, 21-29 and 11-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 103(a). Claims 5-6, 15-16, 26-28, 31-36, 38-43 and 45-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this response, claims 2-3, 5, 12-13, 15, 24, and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 6, 11, 14, 16, 21, 25, 27-28, 30-32, 37-39, and 44 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of objected claim 5 and substantially all limitations of intervening claims 2-3. Claim 11 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of objected claim 15 and substantially all limitations of intervening claims 12-13. Claim 21 has been amended to include an allowable subject matter of objected claim 26 and substantially all limitations of intervening claim 24. Applicant also has amended the rest of the claims dependent upon one of the above independent claims. Thus, all pending claims are allowable. While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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